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DISTRIBUTORS SELLING "KNOCK OFF" GOODS IN SACRAMENTO AND PLACER COUNTIES CHARGED WITH TRADEMARK VIOLATIONS

Three Defendants Targeted for Selling Counterfeited Handbags, Wallets, and other Items for Profit

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, Placer County Sheriff Edward Bonner, and United States Secret Service Resident Agent-in-Charge, Scott Gillingham, announced today that AIAO CHEN aka Mai Chen, 42, of Elk Grove; TU KWAN KIM, 46, of Lincoln, and ISMAEL FALILOU DIAGNE, 38, of San Francisco, were charged in separate indictments with criminal trademark violations. Each of the defendants were targeted for distributing counterfeited goods, sometimes called "knock offs," including handbags, wallets, and sunglasses.

These cases are the product of joint investigations by the Placer County Sheriff's Office, the United States Secret Service, and the Roseville Police Department. The trademark holders cooperated with law enforcement in investigating these cases.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting these cases, charges were brought against three separate individuals involved in selling counterfeited products. Specifically, CHEN is charged with selling counterfeited handbags and wallets bearing the trademarks of designers including Coach, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Burberry, Dooney & Burke, and Dolce and Gabbana. CHEN operated out of a retail store in downtown Sacramento located on the K Street Mall. According to documents filed in connection with this investigation, CHEN allegedly supplied handbags to women holding "purse parties" in Placer County and elsewhere.

KIM is charged with distributing counterfeited items from a booth in Sacramento County. Specifically, it is alleged that he sold counterfeited sports jerseys bearing the trademarks owned by the NBA and the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team.

DIAGNE operated in Placer county selling counterfeited handbags, wallets, and sunglasses, including products bearing the trademarks of Coach, Gucci, Prada, Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Dolce and Gabbana, Dooney & Burke, Chanel, Fendi, and Chloe.

If convicted of criminal trademark violations, the defendants face a maximum of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both, for a first offense. A defendant faces a fine of not more than \$5 million, and a maximum of 20 years in prison, or both, for a second offense. However, the actual

sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. The counterfeited items are also subject to forfeiture.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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